Letters From Our Special

Correspondents.

An Important Change in the Disposition of the Rebel Forces.

A Hard Battle Expected Before Entering Richmond.

Rebel Troops Pouring Out of the City Toward the Chickahominy.

THE ARRIVAL OF GEN. BEAUREGARD.

New Baides, CHICKAHCMINT RIVER, Va., Monday Evening, May 26, 1862. Within the past three days the disposition of the whole redel army before Richmond seems to have been changed. Instead of the rebels retreating, with all their supplies and camp equipage toward the city, they are coming from it in large numbers, and are evidently determined to make a stand between it and the Chickahominy River. It was ascertained beyond a doubt that five days ago, but a small force of the enemy-say six thousand men-occupied the ground between us and Richmond. It was then supposed that our march into the city would be easy and rapid, and that an opportunity would soon be given the Union citizens of that place to demonstrate their delight at being liberated from the secession yoke. But more the aspect is completely changed, and numerous indications favor the belief that our onward progress to Richmond is to be hotly disputed by the larger part of the rebel army. Every hour troops are pouring out of Richmond and disposing themselves along the line of the Chickahominy, being at some points only a half a mile from it.

Gen. STONEMAN, who, for the past three days, has ville, thought it prudent to retire to a point about half a mile this side of the town. This fact alone, however, does not prove that the enemy is gaining ground, for it was expected when the General occupied his position beyond the town, that he would not remain

Gen. STONEHAN with his force still holds but how long he will be able to do so, unless reinforced, it is impossible to sav. He may with his command, the strength of which it would be imprudent to state here, be able to sericusly retard the movements of the rebels, but it would certainly be expecting too much from him to combat successfully

A deserter just arrived from a Georgia regiment states that between Richmond and Mechanicsville and about one and a half miles from the latter place, three Georgia regiments have encam; ed since morning. He also says that Beauregard crrived in Richmond last, Thursday, and that a most vigorous attempt will be made to save the city.

Last night our gunboats on James River threw a few shells into the rebel batteries, but with what effect we did not learn.

Yesterday we had cars running from West Point to the Chickshominy River. This new facility for getting supplies, guns ammunition, &c., to the army, can be readily appreciated by us all.

Yesterday, while a detail from the Eightieth N. Y Regiment (Engineer corps) were examining a piece of woods, they discovered in the bushes the body of a man which was identified to be that of Sergeant C. WHITWELL, of Company B, Fourth Termont Regiment. He was shot through the head in two places, The circumstances attending his death are not known. Lieut. Danizis, of the Signal corps, who injured Almself last Saturday by falling against a stump while endeavoring to leap his horse across the Chickshomimy in order to carry information to Gen. STONEMAN that the rebels were attempting to flank him on the left, has been obliged to leave his post for a few days. Three of his ribs are dislocated. It is hoped that he will soon recover and rejoin his corps, for in all the advance movements he has greatly distinguished himself by his energy and enterprise.

Bettem's Bridge Rebuilt-Our Troops Across the Chickaheminy-Skirmishing with the Rebels-The Prospect Ahead.

NEAR BOTTOM'S BRIDGE, Thursday, May 22, 1862. In company with Capt. Titus, of Gen. -Staff, I crossed Bottom's Bridge this noon, just at that moment completed, the workmen honoring us with three cheers, as the first to cross the new structure. It is a homely affair of logs laid acress string-pieces, supported by piles driven into the sandy bottom of the ereck—at this point, 25 or 30 yards wide, including the swamp through which it winds its way. Just below the bridge, there is a ford with a clear space of water, having a depth of about four feet. Above the bridge, the stream was kidden by a tangled mass of shubpery, the trees in the swamp upon its borders being felled across the creek, filling up its channel

with their trunks and branches. Without waiting for the erection of bridges our droops have crossed the Chickahominy, and a force of cavalry with several regiments of infantry, are now occupying the advanced posts of Gen. --- posttion on the other side. I found them busy securing their occupation, and preparing for the advance of an additional force, the ares of the pleueers ringing through the forests as they cleared the way for new toads. A ride of two or three miles along a road forming an areste angle with the river pank, brought us to our outer times, where two of cu cavairy stood on picket guard behind a large tiee, watching the movements of the enemy in the select of the weeds across the field, over against the man along which we were passing. Ferlier in the day car cavaletied yours." occupied a house still further in advance, from very the enemy had retired before their appropria. A dittie skirmish washad between them and we caralty yes- queens, that the finder will, "if it is not inconsistent

seen to fall. For some reason the Confederates are remarkably are in quite a deliverent tone from the abusice missies shy of us in this vicinity, and retire tefore our approach with scarcely a show of resistance. This is the more strange, as the nature of the country is such that a small force of determined men might occasion to much and fight in the rain and mid. us great annoyance. The fact that the enemy are the above, that the troops engagest by Cen. — were | eral miles toward the Chickshominy. with some, the suspicion of a deep-laid plot, which the rear guard of the enemy, or sain got her regiments of infantry, under Gen. Hartes, two bacteries. I bacon being the only meat, the beef being all gone.

FROM GEN. M'CLELLAN'S ARMY. is true that they desire us to press further on, their wishes are being gratified as rapidly as the circumstances of the case will allow. Here our pickets are within ten or eleven miles of Richmond, and from the right the report comes to us that a still further advance has been made in that direction.

But the country is one requiring cautious movements. Though so near a city of metropolitan pretensions it is rather a region of forest with intervals of clearing than of clearing with patches of forest. The view in all directions from the Chickshominy is is shut in by hills, covered with a dense growth of dark fir trees, reminding one of the black forests of the Rhine country. From the highest elevation I could attain-on the ridge-pole of a barn surmounting a hill-I could see few signs of civilization in any direction, the heavy growth of timber shutting us out from all but partial views of the little openings of arable land which varied the monotony of the forest. It is a country where a hundred batteries might lie concealed in the path of an army, almost beyond the possibility of detection, and I am puzzled to understand the rebels make so little use of the natural advantages of their position to carry into effective operation the well-established military principle of annoying as much as possible an enemy on the march by sudden attacks, cutting off his detached parties. and keeping him in a constant state of uncertainty and alarm.

Where is that foot-by-foot and hand-to-hand contest with which our progress was to be opposed? Are we being lured onward to a more certain destruction? Have the railroad and the telegraph been left so complete with the expectation that they are again to be repossessed by the Confederate Government? Or is it only a rear guard that lies between us and Richmond, while the main body are securing their retreat, or hastening over the railroad to fall on Banks and McDowell, or to effect a junction with Beauregard, so as to annihilate Halleck preparatory to visiting McClellan with similar destruction?

Conjecture is busy in the camps with these several theories, to which different officers incline, according as they believe in the determination and demoralization of the rebel armies. The accounts we receive from prisoners and others, recently in communication with the rebel army, agree in representing both rank and file as strong in their expression of confidence in our speedy defeat. Does this here, or elsewhere, indicate a speedy surrender on their part, or have they plans for the final discomfiture of Gen. McClellan's army of the Potomac, with which they have been so long playing at fast and loose?

I see that the Times of the 20th discredits my estimate of the rebel strength in Virginia. If, with the bulk of their army concentrated at Corinth and here, they cannot muster 175,000 men in this State, the figures of the Southern census must have played us false, for we find evidence that their men, capable of bearing arms, are, almost to a unit, in the army. This peninsula is completely stripped of males of the milone who has played possum, by creeping into the woods beyond the reach of forcible enlistment. But it is probable that State sovereignty is interfering with the successful operation of the Confederate conscription, as in the case of North Carolina, which, if reported true, has great significance. There is other evidence that when the true history of the rebellion comes to be written, it will be found to have failed as much from internal dissension as from external

The weather has been uncomfortably warm for several days, but a heavy thunder shower, this morning, cleared the air and moderates the heat, which was debilitating our men. The storm was one of unusual violence, the rain falling in a perfect deluge most of the time for a couple of hours, changing to hail towards the last; the thunder crashing sharply among the hills meanwhile. A member of the Fifty second Pennsylvania Regiment is reported to have been struck by lightning during the storm.

Spirited Reconnoissance-The Rebels Driven Back-Our Troops Eight Miles From Richmond-Magrader in Front with

Two Miles Beyond Bottom's Bridge, Saturday, May 24, 1862.

A very spirited reconnoissance was made today, by Gen. ---, which has resulted in his securing a position five miles beyond Bottom's Bridge, and but eight miles from Richmond, on the turnpike road from Williamsburgh and New-Kent to that city.

With five regiments of Gen. - Division, Gen. - advanced up the road, until his skirmishers came in contact with the enemy, who opened fire with musketry and artillery, of which latter they had six pieces stationed on a little elevation to the left, and supported by infantry. Our batteries were immediately ordered up and opened a brisk fire, which finally compelled the rebels to retire, our guns doing much execution among them, Our loss was one killed and seven wounded, as follows:

Wu. Brown, Co. C, One Hundred and Fourth Pennsylvania, killed by a six-pound shot striking him in

Wounded-Lieut. Dilla B. Groffe, Co. H, One Hundred and Fourth Pennsylvania, contusion from the shot that killed Brown, striking him on the shoulder; Corporal Aaron Thompson, Co. D, One Hundred and Fourth Fennsylvania, severely, musket ball in the abdomen; Edw. W. Allabach, Co. A. Fifty-second Pennsylvania, amputation left leg just above the knee; Dewitt Haynes, Co. D, Fifty-second Pennsylvania, musket bail in thigh; D. W. Holley, Co. A, Fifty-second Pennsylvania, slightly in side of head with piece of shell; Joseph Lebaf, Co. H, Ninetyeighth New-York, severely, musket ball penetrating

The rebel troops engaged are supposed to have been the brigade of Tennessee troops of which information was brought us this morning by a deserter. They have been in advance of the main body, acting as a corps of observation, and it is supposed that they were also attempting a reconnoissance at the time they were met by our troops. They were supported by artillery and infantry, but were driven handsomely back by Gen. ---, who now holds a position at a cross road leading from the Richmond and Williamsburgh turnpike to the railroad near the eight-mile guide-post out of Richmond. Gen. MAGRUDER is reported, with 40,000 men, within the sound of a drum

Our pickets here are again in contact with the enemy, conversation passing between them last night Some of the rebels inquired of our men to what regi-

ment they belonged: "One Hundred and Fourth New-Jersey," was the

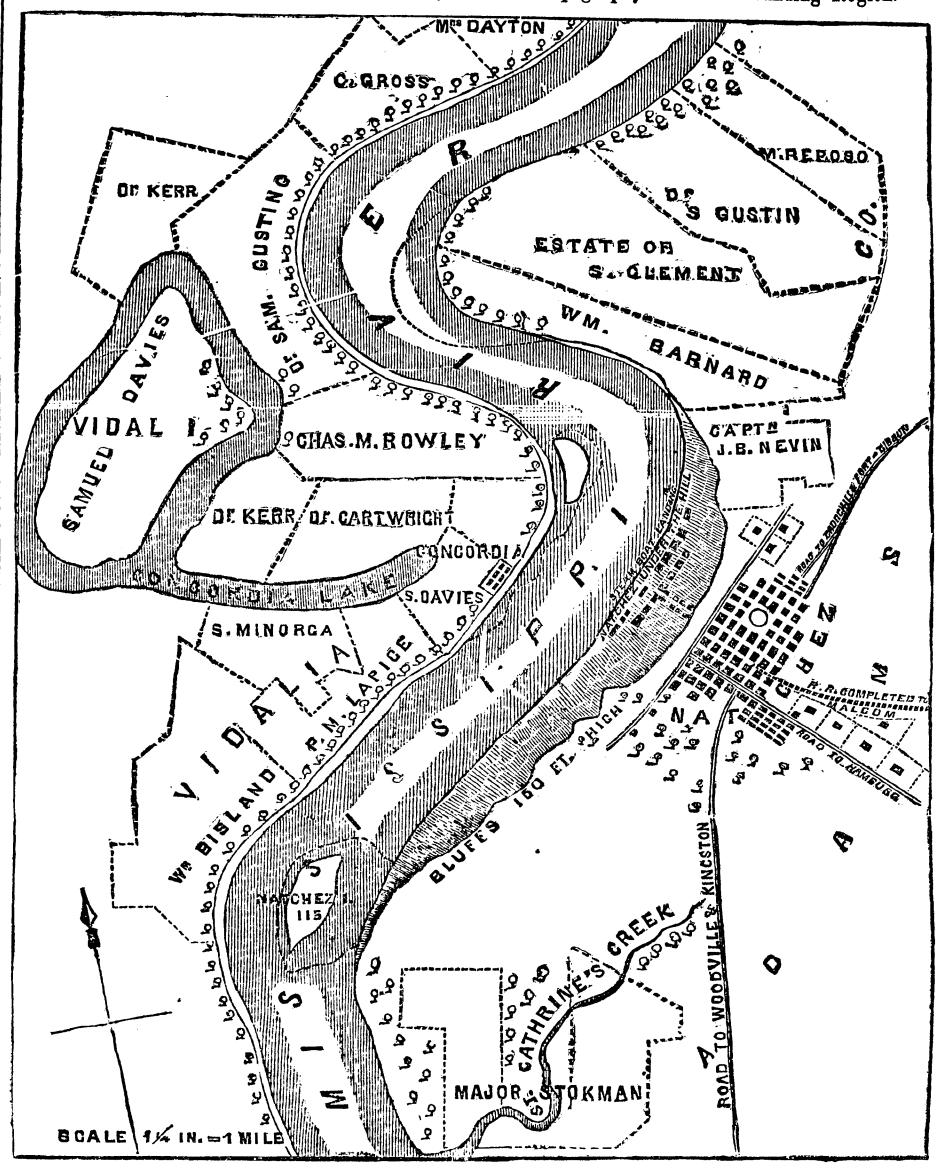
'Go to ---," responded the skeptical Confederate,

there are not so many men in New-Jersey." Sundry communications have been dropped in the paths of our troops, by the retreating rebels. One, written on a tin canteen was about as follows: "Yankee! You came d-d near shooting me out on picket last night. What did you do that for? I have never done anything to injure you; how and

why should you shoot me? Your fellows are always shooting at our men on picket, but we never shoot Another very polite letter was shown me, in which a member of the "First Virginia Cavairy" re. erday, none being killed on our he o, though, as with the duty as a soldier, send word of the good acual, several of the rebels are reported to have been beath of the writer to his father, Mr. — Cusnan, Molecence, Frederick County, Md." These letters

> which are orderedly found scattered in our path. It was mining very hard up to 3 o'clock to-day, and our men engaged in the reconnoissance were obliged P. S.-Ha f-past Eight P. M.-A learn, since writing

Map Showing the Position of Natchez, the City "Over," and the City "Under" the Hill, the Plantations, Roads and Railroad in the Vicinity, and the Topography of the Surrounding Region.



THE SURRENDER OF NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI.

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI.

The City of Natchez, of whose (virtual though not nominal) surrender to our gunboats we now learn, is 300 miles ahove New-Orleans, by the course of the river, 540 below Memphis, 100 Southwest of Jackson, the capital of the State; and is the largest city in Mississippi-its population, by last census, being 13,550. It is situated on the left bank of the river, mostly on a high bluff, near 200 feet above the river level. That portion of the city on the margin of the river is termed "Natchez under the Hill;" most of the heavy mercantile business is done in this part of the town, and most of the gamblers, robbers, cyprians, and bowie-knife chivalry, for which Natchez was erst so famous, had here their headquarters. The upper town-" Natchez over the Hill"-stands on the bluff, and is an elegant and salubrious spot—the thermometer here seldom rising above 90 degrees. From this point, as far as the eye can reach along the margin of the river, is seen rich and well-cultivated cotton plantations, and the seats of many wealthy families, [see diagram,] while beyond this is a boundless waste of deep and impenetrable swamps. The city is one of the principal cotton ports on the Mississippi; the streets are often rendered impassable by the piles of

and a regiment of cavalry, the whole under the com-

mand of Gen. STUART. The rebel loss is reported to

be quite large, though I have no definite information

I hear a locomotive whistle near here which would

indicate that the railroad is in operation from White-house. The track is now in our possession to within seven or eight miles of Richmond.

The Passage of the Chickahominy-No Oppo-

Feeling among the Rebels.

before the advance of our troops.

sition-A Prisoner and his Statements-

We crossed the Chickahominy, yesterday, with-

out opposition, a previous reconnoissance having dis-

covered the country clear of the enemy for some dis-

tance back of the river, their videttes failing back

A deserter who comes in this morning, brings a con-

firmation of the suggestion in my last letter, that their

falling back is a ruse to draw us into difficulty. He

reports that the rebel pickets have instructions to full

mond, when, as at Williamsburgh, they will make a

sudden attack upon our advance in superior force

The main body of the Confederate army he reports

on the north side of the railroad, the brigade of Ten-

nessee troops, to which he belongs, doing picket duty

The rebels claim 150,000 men, but 80,000 he asserts

will cover their entire force. Much dissatisfaction

exists among them on account of the conscription act,

and many would be glad to lay down their

arms did not pride forbid. The leaders are determined

to make a stand, having chosen a position near Rich-

mond for this purpose; their works, as I have before

stated, running from a point close to the city for set-

The retule are not lacking for food, such as it is-

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THREE MILES OVER THE CHICKAHOMINY, ?

Saturday, May 24, 1862.

cotton bales waiting to be shipped; but since the rebellion all this has passed away. Natchez carries on (in the past tense) an extensive inland and foreign trade; many large vessels come up to the town, receive their freight, and sail to foreign ports. There are several large foundries here for making engines, which have been of use to the rebels. The cotton plantations in the vicinity, with the names of their owners, and other interesting local details, will be found accurately set forth in our diagram.

THE SURRENDER OF NATCHEZ. From the Natchez Courier of the 14th. OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The Mayor and Selectmen of the City of CITY HALL, May 13. Natchez assembled in special meeting at 8 o'clock

Present—John Hynner, Esq., Mayor; Messrs. Baldwin, Curry, Dix, Walworth and Walker.

The Mayor stated that he had called the meeting for the purpose of taking into consideration the following communication, viz.:
UNITED STATES STEAMER IROQUOIS, AT ANCHOR)

OFF NATCHER, Miss., May 12, 1862. Siz: In advance of the squadron now coming up the Mississippi, I am instructed by the Flag-Officer to demand the surrender of the City of Natchez to the naval forces of the United States: The same terms will be accorded as those granted to New-Orleans and Baton Rouge. The rights and property of all peaceable citizens shall be respected;

A reconnoissance was made yesterday, by Gen.

signs of the rebels were discovered except the scout-

ing parties, who fell back on each other until a body

A similar reconnoissance was made at the same time, on the Richmond road, by Col. —, who found a body of several hundred infantry three miles this

side of Bottom's Bridge. Gen.— has gone out on another reconnoissance this morning, intending to push as far on toward Richmond as he can with safety. The sound of brisk firing, in the advance as I

write, reports that he has met the enemy.

PIERREPONT.

LATE AND IMPORTANT.

Further Particulars of the Battle at

Hanover Court-house.

Henvy Losses Suffered by the

Gen. McClellan telegraphs to the Secretary of

The loss of the enemy is set down at 1.000. Our

The forces opposed to us were principally from

in a complete route of the enemy.

men buried one hundred of their dead

more are coming.

which 53 were killed,

North Carolina and Georgia.

Washington, Wednesday, May 28.

of about one hundred had gathered.

— to within three miles of the James River. No

Confederate States must be delivered up, and the flag of the United States must wave unmolested and respected over your town.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

JAS. S. PALMER, Commander. To His Honor, the Mayor of Natchez. To which communication the Mayor was directed to make the following reply, viz. :

May, 13, 1862.

Sin: Your communication of the 12th inst. has been received by me and laid before the Board of Selectmen of this City, and I am directed to return the following replication. following reply:

Coming as a conqueror, you need not the interposition of the city authorities to possess this place.

An unfortified city, an entirely defenceless people, have no alternative but to yield to an irresistible force, as useless to imperil innocent blood. Formalities

So far as the city authorities can prevent, there will be no opposition to your possession of the city; they cannot, however, guarantee that your flag shall wave unmolested in the sight of an excited people; wave unmolested in the sight of an excited people; but such authority as they possess shall be exercised for the preservation of good order in the city.

As to property belonging to the Confederate States, they are not aware of any such within the limits of the city. Veryl respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN HUNTER, Mayor.

To Jas. S. Palmer, Commander U. S. S. Iroquois, at anchor off Natchey Miss.

The Board then adjourned. C. F. MERRICK, City Clerk.

selves very tired of the war. They also say that their defeat will have a very demoralizing effect on

FROM GEN. BANKS ARMY.

Washington, Wednesday, May 28. No further particulars of Gen. BANKS' affair have been received.

EXCITEMENT IN MARYLAND.

Arrest of Judge Carmichael at Easton, with the Prosecuting Attorney of Talbot County for Treason-The United States Marshal Resisted-The Military Called upon.

Baltimore, Wednesday, May 28.

Last Saturday, Deputy Provost-Marshal James L. McPhail, by orders of Gen. Dix, commanding this Department, proceeded to Easton, Talbot County, Md., to arrest Judge Richard Carmichael, Judge of the County, and JAMES POWELL, Prosecuting Attorney, upon a charge of treason.

Marshal McPull, with several officers, arrived at War that the battle of Hanover Court-house resulted ! Easton on Saturday evening, and took lodgings at the Easton Hotel. Early on Sunday morning the purpose It is stated that we have taken 500 prisoners, and of their visit was rumored, and a fellow named Mo-NABE was actively engaged in exciting the peoele. Some called on the Marshal and stated that an attempt to arrest the Judge would and cotion to Josian Jax, arrived yesterday. Sho Our loss is 379 in milied, wounded and missing, o; be resisted by at least one hundred armed men. reports that on May 16, at 8 A. M., lat. 23° 50', lon. 81% On Monday the excitement was intense, and threats of violence were repeated, still the officers were patient and quiet. but determined to make the arrest or | ed with cotton, and sent her to Now-York. She did The principle would be former Store express them. I ale in the attempt, The Marghal telegraphed the state | not learn the name of the captured steamer.

of affairs to Gen. Dix, who sent one hundred and twenty-five of the Second Delaware Regiment. They reached Nyes' Landing yesterday noon, the Marshal met them and gave orders to them to be in the town in one hour. In the meantime, the Marshall and his officers went to the Court-house, where the Judge was presiding, and told him he must consider himself under arrest and a prisoner. The Judge demanded the authority for such a proceeding, and was answered, the authority of the United States. He replied that he did not regard that authority, under the circumstances. Here a call was made for the Sheriff, but the crier was soon stopped, and one of the officers ascended the steps to arrest the Judge. The Judge resisted and kicked the officer, who drew a club and struck the Judge upon the head with it, inflicting slight wound. Other officers arrested Mr. Powers and two citizens, Mr. McNabs and Elixie Pascault. The proceedings were prompt and decisive, and all was done in a few moments, the greatest excitement existing in the Court-room. The military soon made their appearance outside, and after a snort delay the whole party, including his Honor, were marched to the steamer and brought to the city, and lodged in Fort McHenry.

FROM GEN. HALLECK'S ARMY.

Picket Skirmishing Prohibited by Gen. Halleck.

The Opposing Lines Only Two Miles Apart.

A Report of the Surrender of Vicksburgh.

Washington, Wednesday, May 28. Information from Gen. HALLEGE, dated yesterdays

indicates that no engagement had taken place. BEFORE CORINTH, Tuesday, May 27. Gen. HALLECK has issued an order prohibiting skirmishing. The pickets on each side are now friendly, and within conversation distance, which

they improve. Last night five rebels, including one Sergeant, came

All along the line our forces are within two miles of the rebel works. In some places our heavy gung are in battering distance, but dense woodlands intervening prevent either party from opening fire.

Camp rumors say that Vicksburgh had surrendered, and our flect was en route to Memphis.

The reporter of the Associated Press at Gen. HAL-LECE's headquarters says that all Corinthian news telegraphed from Chicago, derived vià Cairo, for some time past, is entirely without foundation.

No engagement of the least consequence had occurred in Corinth or vicinity up to 11:30 P. M. yes-

ITEMS OF SOUTHERN NEWS

The Savannah (Ga.) News, of the 17th, says that two Yankee steamers opened fire with shot and shell on Darien on Friday. No damage was done. [Darien] Ga., is the capital of McIntosh County, on the left bank of the Altamaha River, twelve miles from the sea, and sixty miles southwest of Savannah.1

The Mobile Register of the 22d says that all is quiet at Fort Morgan. It publishes the correspondence relative to the demanded surrender of Vicksburgh. The Vicksburgh Citizen of the 20th says some Nationals have landed at Warrenton, and had a

[Warrenton is a small town in Warren county, Miss., on the east bank of the Mississippi River, and ten miles below Vicksburgh.]

Gov. Shortes of Alabama, calls out all the male population not subjected to the conscription law for CINCINNATI, Wednesday, May 28.

A special to the Gazette from Indianapolis says that an efficer who left Corinth Monday reports that the army moved up to within three-fourths of a mile of the enemy's fortifications on Sunday night, and are intrenching. Gen. HALLECK says his position will not warrant his risking anything, hence his moving by regular approaches, and fortifying as he goes. It is expected that our forces would open on the enemy

Gen. Lovell, it was reported, arrived at Corinth Sunday night with seven thousand raw recruits. Deserters say that the army has more confidence in Gens. Brage and Price than they have in Braune GARD. The rebel army is on balf rations; they get fresh beef twice a week, and spoiled corned beef the balance of the time. No pork is given out at all.

The sickness in their army is fearful, and increase ing rapidly; while ours is improving in health. Their officers have sent all their baggage and personal eff fects to Grand Junction.

PHILADELPHIA, Wednesday, May 28. Hon. THOMAS A. Scott, Assistant Secretary of War has arrived here, direct from Gen. Halleck's army before Corinth, having left there on Friday. Our army is in excellent condition, occupying a strong position, and ready for the great struggle. A battle may be expected within the next ten days.

NEWS FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Suppression of the Norfolk Day Book, at the Request of Citizens. FORTHESS MONROE, Tuesday, May 27, 104 BALTIMOBE, Wednesday, May 28.

The Norfolk Day Book, which was allowed to continue its issue by Con. VIZLE, after the occupation of Norfolk, on condition that it should be respectful in its tone, was to-day suppressed, in consequence of a communication in yesterday's paper signed "Inquirer." which, in severe language, assails those Union citizens who have taken the oath of allegiance to the United States. A meeting was held last night, in which the course of the paper was discussed, and a Committee having waited upon Gen. VIELE and stated

their request that the paper should be stopped, he acquiesced, and the order was issued this morning. After a hard rain, lasting all night, the weather is now pleasant, but very warm.

The steamer George Peabouy sailed to-day for Nawe An Important Prizo-Casturo of an Iron

Stenuently Londed if th Cotton. The bark Falles, (British, of Balize, Hond.) Bibble, from Ballze, Hond.,) May 10, with logwood she was boarded by the United States bark Pursuit who reported that the day previous the United States